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development forms by no means the least important part of the history of the state.

To grasp the significance of the progress made in a hundred years of statehood a survey of conditions as they existed a century ago is essential. Thus the task which the author sets for himself is "to portray the social, economic, and political life of Illinois at the close of the territorial period, and, in addition, to tell the story of the transition from colonial dependence to the full dignity of a state in the union". The first chapters deal with the Indians and the fur-trade, the public lands, and the extent of settlement within the state in 1818. Each chapter forms a carefully organized summary of practically all the available information on the subject under consideration. Three chapters deal with the pioneers, their economic situation, and social condition. These will appeal to the student of American pioneer life, for he will find in them that which is of much more than mere local importance, an interesting and accurate portrayal of conditions as they were in every frontier community of the hard-wood districts of the West.

The last half of the book is devoted to a discussion of territorial politics, the birth and development of the movement which finally resulted in the admission of Illinois, the constitutional convention and its work, and finally the establishment of the state government, the first elections, and the organization of the first state legislative body. Had the author done no more than this his contribution would have been a solid one, for the contemporaneous accounts usually reflect the bitter prejudices which the struggle over the extension of slavery injected into the politics of the territory.

The bibliography, although not a long one, includes practically every item of sufficient importance to be of service to the student of the period. Foot-notes do not overburden the pages but there are enough to guide any investigator. The index is good and numerous illustrations together with some really useful maps add to the value of the volume. So far, at least, the promise of the editors has been fulfilled.

WILLIAM V. POOLEY.

Writings of John Quincy Adams. Edited by WORTHINGTON C. FORD. Volume VII., 1820-1823. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xxi, 516. \$3.50.)

INTEREST in Adams's *Writings* increases as we enter the twenties, a critical period in his public career. The value of this collection, it may be said again, consists less in its bringing to light documents of new and startling import than in supplying gaps in the already voluminous record of John Quincy Adams as a public servant. Even his *Memoirs*—the most complete personal record of any American statesman—sometimes contain Adams's reflections and cogitations rather than the precise outcome of his mental processes. In the volume before us, for example,

are six letters to General Vivés, the new Spanish minister. Three of these have been printed in *American State Papers*. The *Memoirs* give a running account of the controversy over the ratification of the Spanish treaty. On May 18, 1820, Adams records that he drafted a note which, with the omission of a paragraph that the President thought too strong, was sent to Vivés. Adams describes only the general tenor of the note. It is printed for the first time in this collection. In itself this document is of no great importance, but as a link in the chain of events, it fills an important place. The real service rendered by the editor, in short, can be appreciated only by the reader who has the *Memoirs* at his elbow.

This seventh volume touches on a great variety of subjects, ranging from the arbitration of the claims of slave-owners for property carried away by British officers in the late war, and the interchange of proposals for the suppression of the African slave-trade, to the petty controversy of Adams with Jonathan Russell, and the jockeying of candidates for position in the presidential race of 1824.

The thoroughgoing quality of Adams's work as Secretary of State stands out in his instructions to Henry Middleton for the mission to Russia. It is hardly too much to say that no other contemporary American statesman could have written with so wide a vision of European affairs. Adams spent nearly a month drafting this set of detailed instructions. In some illuminating foot-notes, the editor recalls certain less admirable qualities which were only too likely to defeat the ends of diplomacy. Adams's colleagues in the cabinet were often obliged, as Crawford put it, to "soften the asperities" of the official notes of the State Department. The contentious tone of some of Adams's letters seems to be that of a man intent on scoring a dialectic victory over an opponent. In one of his moments of introspection, he wrote to Mrs. Adams: "I am certainly not intentionally repulsive in my manners and deportment, and in my public station I never made myself inaccessible to any human being. But I have no powers of fascination." But at this moment he was writing of himself as a possible candidate for the Presidency.

ALLEN JOHNSON.

The Life of John Caldwell Calhoun. By WILLIAM M. MEIGS. In two volumes. (New York: Neale Publishing Company. 1917. Pp. 456, 478. \$10.00.)

ALTHOUGH Calhoun has been the most discussed of all Southerners since Thomas Jefferson and his career and conduct have most profoundly influenced the life of the growing nation, we have not till now a definitive biography. There have been excellent brief sketches like Gaillard Hunt's work or even von Holst's thoroughgoing condemnation, but no detailed and matured account of all the episodes and changes in a very changeful career.